



**Connecticut Department of
Energy & Environmental Protection**
Bureau of Materials Management & Compliance Assurance
Permitting & Enforcement Division

**Fact Sheet for the Notice of Tentative Decision:
Intent To Reissue for One Year Four National Pollutant Discharge
Elimination System General Permits**

General Permit Background Information: A general permit is a permit issued by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to cover a specific *category of wastewater discharge*. Contrast this with an *individual permit* which is a single permit written to cover the discharge from a single facility. Many dischargers may register their discharge under a single general permit. A general permit contains discharge requirements, effluent limits, best management practices and treatment requirements specific to the discharge category that are designed to protect the waters of the state from pollution. The Commissioner of DEEP is authorized to approve or deny such permits pursuant to Section 22a-430b of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS).

The four general permits proposed for reissuance without modifications are described below.

The General Permit for the Discharge of Minor Non-Contact Cooling and Heat Pump Water applies to discharges of minor non-contact cooling and heat pump water to a surface water, groundwater, or a POTW. For discharges to a surface water, the maximum daily flow must not exceed 500,000 gallons per day (gpd) and must have a minimum dilution available in the receiving stream at seven day, ten-year low flow of at least ten to one. For discharges to a POTW, the maximum daily flow must not exceed 50,000 gpd or 1% of the POTW's design capacity, whichever is less. Discharges to groundwater must be derived solely from once-through heat exchange systems which do not receive chemical additions of any kind and which use on-site groundwater, public water supply or surface water as source water. Registration is required to be submitted in order for the discharges to be authorized by this general permit except for discharges of *less than 5000 gpd* to either a POTW or to groundwater.

The General Permit for the Discharge of Water Treatment Wastewaters applies to all discharges of wastewater generated by the treatment of water supplies for potable or industrial process use (and does *not* include wastewaters generated by any residential or commercial point of entry treatment device.) Registration is required to be submitted in order for the discharges to be authorized by this general permit except that, for certain discharges listed in the general permit, a registration need not be submitted.

The General Permit for the Discharge of Hydrostatic Pressure Testing Wastewater applies to all discharges of waters used to test the structural integrity of new tanks and pipelines and tanks and pipelines which have been used to hold or transfer drinking water, sewage, or natural gas. Registration is required to be submitted in order for the discharges to be authorized by this

general permit. If the discharges are from hydrostatic pressure testing of natural gas pipelines, registration is required to be submitted *and* approved in writing by the Department in order for the discharges to be authorized by this general permit.

The General Permit for the Discharge of Groundwater Remediation Wastewater Directly to Surface Water applies to discharges of groundwater remediation wastewater generated during the process of investigating and remediating groundwater and soil, and other related wastewaters, directly to a surface water, either through a dedicated conveyance, or through any other conveyance system that the permittee is authorized to utilize. The combined maximum daily flow of all groundwater remediation wastewater generated at the site from which such discharge takes place or is proposed to take place does not exceed ten per cent of the 7Q10 flow of the watercourse into which such wastewater is discharged or, if all such wastewater is directed to a manmade impoundment or a natural lake or pond, the combined maximum daily flow of such wastewater does not exceed one-half of one per cent of the water volume of such impoundment, lake, or pond. Discharge to waterbodies classified as public water supply (AA) is **not** authorized by this general permit. Registration is required to be submitted in order for the discharges to be authorized by this general permit and some require approval of registration.

Proposed Consolidation of Permits--The reissuance for one year of these four general permits will allow work to be completed on two general permits that will replace the above four general permits and one other. The above four general permits currently expire on March 29, 2016.

The first general permit under development is the ***Comprehensive General Permit for Discharges to Surface Waters and Ground Waters*** (Comprehensive GP). The Comprehensive GP will replace the General Permit for the Discharge of Water Treatment Wastewater, the General Permit for the Discharge of Minor Non-contact Cooling and Heat Pump Water, and the General Permit for the Discharge of Hydrostatic Pressure Testing Wastewater.

The second general permit under development is the ***General Permit for the Discharge of Groundwater Remediation Wastewater***. This general permit will combine the General Permit for the Discharge of Groundwater Remediation Wastewater Directly to a Surface Water and the General Permit for the Discharge of Groundwater Remediation Wastewater to a Sanitary Sewer into a single general permit.